

FAITH: I can't un-know it.

EVELYN: You shouldn't have looked.

LIL: To FAITH, I told you.

FAITH: Are you saying that I should pretend along with you?

LIL: To EVELYN, Why did you hold on to all that?

EVELYN: They need sifting. I never could....there's some documents in there...I have to keep those...the rest needed throwing away years ago.

FAITH: You mustn't throw them away. Let me have them.

EVELYN: To FAITH, I don't want you getting involved with all that. No. To LIL, She mustn't, Lil. It's got nothing to do with her.

FAITH: It has got something to do with me.

EVELYN: It has got nothing to do with you at all.

FAITH: I just want to know about you.

EVELYN: You do know about me.

FAITH: And my grandparents.

LIL: To EVELYN, You'll have to talk to her.

EVELYN: I think, Faith, that this conversation must come to a close.

FAITH: Don't do this, Mother. You always do this. It only makes things worse.

EVELYN: We cannot continue to discuss the subject profitably.

EVELYN starts to exit.

LIL: You can't leave it like this, Evelyn.

FAITH leaps in front of her and bars the door. **← START**

FAITH: I'm not letting it go.

EVELYN: What is wrong with you?

FAITH: Do you have any idea what it's like having a mother who walks out on you the moment you begin to disagree with her? Who polishes and cleans like a maniac?

EVELYN: Pull yourself together.

FAITH: Pull myself together? You're so paranoid you go stiff and sharp at every speck of dust or object out of place in your precious home...

EVELYN: I care about where I live. I know what it's worth.

FAITH: You can't go on a train without hyperventilating. You cross the road if you see a policeman or traffic warden.

EVELYN: How ridiculous.

FAITH: I've watched your panic attacks. All that shaking and gulping like you're going to die. But always it's me who's getting things out of proportion because I get scared by them. "So silly and neurotic, Faith."

EVELYN: Look at you now.

FAITH: I have never been a good enough daughter.

EVELYN: What are you going on about?

FAITH: I've always thought it was my fault that you were so unhappy.

EVELYN: I am not unhappy. Heaven knows why you are.

FAITH: Nothing I do or say ever gets through to you...

EVELYN: Don't talk such nonsense.

FAITH: You are always pushing me away...as far away as you can...

EVELYN: How can you say that?

FAITH: All you've given me is a pack of lies.

LIL: Watch what you say, Faith.

EVELYN: I have never lied to you.

FAITH: Don't try making out I'm making this up. I've got proof. Look. Evidence. That's the truth. And you don't ever tell it to me. Not any of it.

EVELYN: Are you ready to let me out yet?

EVELYN tries to leave again. FAITH continues to block her way.

FAITH: Jesus. How could I possibly not be a bad child with such a terrible mother!

LIL: That's enough.

FAITH: A fucking awful, lying cow of a mother.

EVELYN: How dare you!

LIL: You don't know the half of it, madam. Give your mother some consideration.

FAITH: I someone would let me in on the whole of it, I might bloody well be able to!

EVELYN: Have you finished?

FAITH: Why did you never explain about yourself?

EVELYN: Have you quite finished?

FAITH: I could kill you.

LIL: *Going for FAITH, I'll bloody kill you first.*

FAITH runs away. LIL follows her. The shadow of the RATCATCHER looms.

EVA: He's coming.

EVELYN: Stop.

EVE: He'll be here any minute.

EVELYN: Don't

EVA: He'll cut off my fingers.

EVELYN: He's not coming!

EVA: He'll pull out my hair one piece at a time.

EVELYN: You've not done anything wrong.

EVA: He'll hang me by my ears out of the window.

EVELYN: You're a good girl.

EVA: Don't let him come. Please!

EVELYN: *Speaking desperately as if saying it will make it true, I won't let him come! I'll use all my force to stop him. I promise. You're with me now. Do you understand? Me. You're being looked after. I'll make it all go away. I won't let him hurt you ever again.*

END SCENE.

← END